COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The Constitution (Eighty-fifth Amendment) Bill, 1999, seeking to provide for reservation of seats for women in the Legislatures was introduced in the 13th Lok Sabha on 23.12.1999 and is pending for consideration and passing in that House. The earlier Bill introduced in 1996 on this subject had lapsed. Ever since the present Bill was introduced, the Government has made constant endeavours to bring about a consensus among all political parties. The Bill is a revolutionary measure which may have vital impact on the polity of the nation. As such, the effort of the Government so far has been to strive for complete consensus on the issue. It is, therefore, for all the political parties^groups to cooperate with the Government in preparing ground to ensure smooth passage of the Bill either with or without modifications.

Withdrawal of Model Code of Conduct for Elections

† 3198. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:

SHRI K.M. KHAN:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the occasion and the time when the Model Code of Conduct for election was withdrawn along with the reasons therefor;

(b) what was the constitutional and legal validity of the said Model Code of Conduct for elections;

(c) whether it is a fact that the said Code of Conduct was not applicable on the actions of day-to-day functioning of various autonomous and Government organisations including PSUs and subordinate bodies, etc; and

(d) if so, whether it was unreasonable and invalid to make it applicable for such actions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Model Code of Conduct has never been withdrawn during elections.

(b) to (d) The Model Code of Conduct for elections has been framed by the Election Commission. It has been evolved by the Election Commission of India in consultation with the political parties. The principles enunciated in the said Code are addressed to the political parties and the 'Party in Power'. The issues relating to the Code are pending before the Supreme Court in Special Leave Petition [SLP (Civil) No. 2272497]. The Government is also having discussions with the Election Commission of India on matters requiring resolution on certain aspects of the Code.

Rotation of Constituencies reserved for SC&STs

3199. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since taken any decision about delimitation of constituencies and rotation of constituencies reserved for SCs and STs as election reforms measure; and

(b) if so, the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The Government is considering to seek extension of the current constitutional embargo on undertaking fresh delimitation of constituencies for the purpose of allotment of seats up to the year 2026 A.D. The Government is also considering rationalization of territorial constituencies, without altering the number of seats allotted to each State in the House of the People as well as in the Legislative Assemblies so as to remove the imbalances caused due to uneven growth of population/electorate in different constituencies. There is, however, no proposal, at present, to carry out fresh delimitation for the purpose of rotating constituencies of SCs and STs.